

For the Final exam, please bring one or two blue books. You will be responsible for the following:

Euthanasia:

Define voluntary active euthanasia

Define physician-assisted suicide

Define passive euthanasia

Rachels argues against “standard view” concerning euthanasia. What is the standard view?

What Rachel’s argument against the standard view? What does he think that the two cases (Smith/Jones stories) shows?

Explain what it is to have the right to autonomy (self-determination) and how this right lends support for the permissibility of euthanasia.

Brock thinks that euthanasia is morally permissible. Explain how Brock explains the distinction between killing and letting die. Given Brock's definition, what's an example of each?

Callahan writes, “I have yet to hear a plausible argument why it should be permissible for us to put this kind of power in the hands of another, whether a doctor or anyone else. The idea that we can waive our right to life, and then give to another the power to take that life, requires a justification yet to be provided by anyone.” (75) How do the examples of slavery and dueling support this position?

Stem-cell research:

What’s so controversial about Stem-Cell Research (SCR)?

Explain the two strands of McGee and Caplan's argument for the permissibility of stem-cell research.

McGee and Caplan seem to think that “recombined DNA” is our essential nature. What is a problem with this view? [see “Personal Identity” slide]

Meilander suggests an analogy between just war theory and SCR. He holds a “utilitarianism of extremity”. What is this? Why does Meilander think a nation having a just cause for war is analogous to SCR?

Cloning:

What are some of the motivations behind why some people would want a cloned child?

Kass argues against human cloning. Explain his Wisdom of Repugnance argument [or the 'Yuk argument' in Gillon's terms], what is it supposed to show? What is one objection to his argument?

Gillon thinks that cloning is immoral, but another part of him says it's not. What's going on here?

Justice and Health Care:

What are positive and negative rights? What kind of right is the right to health care typically thought to be?

Daniels thinks the argument from equal opportunity supports some kind of universal healthcare? What is the argument from equal opportunity? Do you agree with the argument? Why or why not? (your answer should demonstrate an understanding of the opportunities and impediments to these opportunities)

According to Veatch, how is the "egalitarian principle" supported by Rawls's "veil of ignorance"? How does this connect with his support of universal healthcare?

Bok and Meyer: Truth and the Physician

What is the tension between the doctor's commitment to non-maleficence and the prima facie wrongness of lying?

Meyer thinks that it is okay for doctors to lie or withhold truth because of "therapeutic privilege". What is "therapeutic privilege" and why does it trump the prima facie wrongness of lying?

According to Bok, what are the three main reasons why physicians think they are permitted to lie to patients? Explain Bok's response to these reasons. What are the similarities and differences between the positions of Bok and Meyer regarding how truthful physicians have to be with their patients.

Animal Experimentation:

Explain what Singer means (and doesn't mean) by the claim that all animals are equal?

Why does Singer think that nonhuman animals even have interests? If he is correct, what is an example of an interest they have?

Cohen thinks that animals do not have rights. What, according to Cohen, is the difference between humans and nonhuman animals, which gives rights to humans, but not to nonhuman animals?

Cohen thinks there is a difference between humans and nonhuman animals. An objection that Cohen anticipates and replies to is what I called “the brain-damaged objection” What is the objection? What is Cohen’s response? How does Hettinger respond to Cohen’s?